

National Technology Benchmarks

We have evaluated the program outcomes for Forest Resources Technology at VIU against the criteria published in the current version of the National Technology Benchmarks and feel we meet or exceed the criteria. Specific outcomes contained within forestry course outlines have been evaluated against the National Technology Benchmarks using the indicators of performance in the NTB V2012. Where a significant number of indicators are supported by a course it is indicated in the Program Matrix Table. Details of the evaluation are contained within Table 1 Program Matrix for Forest Resource Technology. Outlines of core courses that best represent each program outcome are attached. In many cases more than one course supports a program outcome.

In addition to the traditional core program provided by Vancouver Island University we frequently bring in outside expertise to supplement the students education and qualifications. Good examples of this are courses such as Level 1 First Aid, GPS Operators Training, and Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems. These courses are traditionally provided by employers in the workplace but faculty feels that they help students find employment and support program outcomes.

Opportunities For Improvement (from last report):

1. Given that in BC, Forestry is a restricted and regulated profession, it would be good if some specific outcomes related to that topic, registration and scope of practice be included.
Action taken: Incorporated two half-day workshops on Professionalism and Ethics – conducted by the ABCFP.
2. Faculty must continue to improve course outlines to include more definitive outcome statements such as “describe, apply, or evaluate” rather than “demonstrate a thorough knowledge of”, “Appreciate the importance of” or “Understand”. State outcomes, especially in 2nd Year courses, that reflect higher order thinking like analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
Action taken: All learning outcomes for all FRST courses have been revised/updated to address this concern.
3. Several course outlines, especially in support courses of Math and English lack detail as to schedule of topics and emphasis within course. The students would be well served if all courses, including the English courses, provided matching competency based outcomes in the course outlines to ensure program recognition and facilitate the student’s transition to professional status through program accreditation.
Action taken: None. Note that ENGL and MATH courses are outside the purview of the department and were not altered.
4. FRST 212 – Forest Measurements IV – best represents the Forest Measurements major. This course has previously been the selected Forest Measurements program strength course.

Action taken: With the latest revision of the program, FRST 211 is the course that best represents Forest Measurements.